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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 11 July 2007 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 11 July 2007 (see annex) that has been sent by the United States Mission to the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in response to the latter's note verbale of 5 July 2007. I request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Committee.

(*Signed*) Russell **Graham**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

07-42951 (E) 190707

Annex to the letter dated 11 July 2007 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and in reference to the latter's note of 5 July 2007, wishes to clarify the nature of travel restrictions imposed on certain members of the United Nations diplomatic community, including the members of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As indicated in the 9 July 2007 meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, representatives of the States Members of the United Nations are provided entry into the United States for the purpose of conducting official United Nations business. However, the United States does not have a legal obligation to approve travel outside the 25-mile limit from Columbus Circle for members of the Iranian Mission for personal reasons or for events that are not official United Nations meetings. As the informal meeting of the working group on the crime of aggression, to which the Iranian note verbale refers, was not an official United Nations meeting, the United States was not legally obligated to permit attendance and chose not to extend that courtesy.